

resources including the areas of flood mitigation, control and management on the rivers flowing through Bihar towards India from Nepal. As a long term solution to the flood control on rivers Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati in Bihar, construction of three high dams is under consideration with Nepal and field investigations are in progress.

As per the understanding reached between the two countries, a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up at Birat Nagar (Nepal) in August, 2004 for carrying out field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report for the Saptakosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. The studies for Storage Dam on river Kamala and Bagmati Multipurpose Project are also being carried out by above JPO.

After taking over by new Government in Nepal, process of holding bilateral talks on Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, inundation problems in the adjoining border areas etc., have been started through Embassy of India in Kathmandu and the dates of bilateral talks are being finalized.

Charging farmers for using ground water

2250. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to charge the farmers for using the water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this may increase the suicides of farmers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Restoration of old canal system in Bihar

2251. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether canal irrigation system in Bihar has collapsed due to silting and their improper upkeep